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EXAMINER

BURGESS, BARBARA N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/783,594

Applicant(s)

KASATANI, KIYOSHI

Examiner

Barbara N. Burgess

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-30,35 and 36 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-30, 35-36 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: 5-20-06.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to Amendment filed February 28, 2006. Claims 1-2, 4-30 presented for further examination. Claims 35-36 presented for initial examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11, 15-17, 22-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman et al. (hereinafter "Chapman", US 6,522,421 B2) in view of Shen (US Patent Publication 2003/0187951 A1).

As per claim 1, Chapman discloses an apparatus, comprising:

- A communication unit configured to receive an email through a communication line, the email having been sent by a user and including a first identifier identifying the user and data (column 1, lines 65-67, column 2, lines 1-2, 37-39, column 3, lines 15-20, 56-60);
- An accumulation unit configured to store therein the data (column 4, lines 6-12);
- A printout unit (column 2, lines 35-40, column 3, lines 29-32);

wherein said accumulation unit includes:

- a private accumulation unit (column 4, lines 6-12);

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- an output accumulation unit (column 2, lines 60-67);
- wherein said control unit is further configured to store the data of the email including the first identifier in said private accumulation unit to control said printout unit to print the data corresponding to the first identifier at the local site by reading the data from said private accumulation unit if the second identifier matches the first identifiers and configured to store data of email failing to include the first identifier in said output accumulation unit to control said printout unit to print the data stored in said output accumulation unit at the local site immediately after the storing of the data in said output accumulation unit (column 2, lines 58-67, column 4, lines 8-15).

Chapman does not explicitly disclose:

- An input unit configured to receive a second identifier entered by the user through direct operation thereof at a local site where said apparatus is installed;
- A control unit which controls said printout unit to print the data corresponding to the first identifier at the local site by reading the data from said accumulation unit if the second identifier matches the first identifier.

However, in an analogous art, Shen teaches a user entering an email address, account name, and PIN corresponding to the mailbox that holds the document to be printed.

Once this information is verified, the document is retrieved by the printer and checked for a security code. If a corresponding security code exists, the user must input this security code. Once the security code is entered, it is determined whether the security code is identical to the code corresponding to the document to be printed. The printer has an interface where each input is made (paragraphs [0052-0054, 0060-0062]).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate Shen's input unit that receives identifiers and a control unit that controls printout unit according to identifiers entered in Chapman's apparatus in order to determine whether a selected document should be printed for the user.

As per claim 2, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communication unit is configured to connect to the Internet and at least one of a facsimile line and a local area network (column 3, lines 56-67).

As per claim 4, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first identifier is an identifier specifying a sender, an identifier specifying a destination, or an identifier specifying both the sender and the destination (18-20, 34-36).

As per claim 5, Chapman further discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said accumulation unit further includes

- A storage accumulation unit (column 4, lines 8-15);
- Said control unit configured to store data of email including a storage identifier in said storage accumulation unit (column 2, lines 58-67, column 3, lines 33-41).

As per claim 6, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said control unit is configured to transmit the data stored in the accumulation unit through said communication unit in response to the first identifier (column 2, lines 58-67, column 4, lines 8-15).

As per claim 7, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a format conversion unit configured to convert a format of the data stored in said accumulation unit (column 3, lines 56-65).

As per claim 8, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of facsimile apparatus (column 3, lines 56-67).

As per claim 9, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of printer apparatus (column 1, lines 65-67, column 2, lines 35-39, column 3, lines 5-6, 30-32).

As per claim 10, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a digital copier that includes at least one of a facsimile function and a printer function (column 3, lines 56-67).

As per claim 11, Chapman further discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a computer (column 2, lines 20-30).

As per claim 15, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a copyright management unit configured to print information about copyright on a printout of the data if the data has copyright information attached thereto (column 3, lines 33-40).

As per claim 16, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said copyright management unit configured to make record of a royalty fee associated with use of the copyright (column 3, lines 33-40).

As per claim 17, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein a print position and print size of said information about copyright is adjustable (column 3, lines 42-50).

As per claim 22, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communication unit is configured to receive by email a transfer identifier including the first identifier and a transfer destination email address, and said control unit is configured to read the data corresponding to the first identifier included in the transfer identifier from the accumulation unit, followed by transferring the read data to the transfer destination email address (column 14-25).

As per claim 23, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 22.

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Chapman does not explicitly disclose wherein said control unit is configured to generate a transfer identifier including the second identifier and an email address of said apparatus if no data stored in said accumulation unit corresponds to the second identifier, and is configured to send the generated transfer identifier to at least one other apparatus identical to the claimed apparatus.

However, in an analogous art, Shen teaches a user entering an email address, account name, and PIN corresponding to the mailbox that holds the document to be printed.

Once this information is verified, the document is retrieved by the printer and checked for a security code. If a corresponding security code exists, the user must input this security code. Once the security code is entered, it is determined whether the security code is identical to the code corresponding to the document to be printed. The printer has an interface where each input is made (paragraphs [0052-0054, 0060-0062]).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate Shen's input unit that receives identifiers and a control unit that controls printout unit according to identifiers entered in Chapman's apparatus in order to determine whether a selected document should be printed for the user.

As per claim 24, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said accumulation unit includes:

- A private accumulation unit (column 4, lines 6-12);

- An output accumulation unit, wherein said control unit is configured to store the data of the email including the first identifier in said private accumulation unit, and to store data of email failing to include the first identifier in said output accumulation unit to control said printout unit to print the data stored in said output accumulation unit immediately after the storing of the data in said output accumulation unit (column 2, lines 58-67, column 4, lines 8-15).

As per claim 25, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 24.

Chapman does not explicitly disclose:

- Wherein said control unit is configured to attach, to the generated transfer identifier, an instruction requesting that data be transferred by email including no first identifier. However, in an analogous art, Shen teaches a user entering an email address, account name, and PIN corresponding to the mailbox that holds the document to be printed. Once this information is verified, the document is retrieved by the printer and checked for a security code. If a corresponding security code exists, the user must input this security code. Once the security code is entered, it is determined whether the security code is identical to the code corresponding to the document to be printed. The printer has an interface where each input is made (paragraphs [0052-0054, 0060-0062]).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate Shen's input unit that receives identifiers and a control unit that controls printout unit according to identifiers entered in

Chapman's apparatus in order to determine whether a selected document should be printed for the user.

As per claim 26, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control unit is configured to control said printout unit according to instructions of a processing instruction text, and transfers the data and the processing instruction text to another apparatus identical to the claimed apparatus if the email includes the processing instruction text (column 3, lines 33-50).

As per claim 27, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said processing instruction text includes a description of one or more addresses of one or more transfer destination apparatuses (column 4, lines 1-6).

As per claim 28, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said processing instruction text includes a description of page numbers and a number of printed copies (column 3, lines 33-50).

As per claim 29, Chapman further discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further comprising processing definition unit which configured to store therein abbreviated transfer destinations and corresponding unabbreviated transfer destinations, wherein said control unit refers to said processing definition unit if a destination specified in the processing instruction text is described by an abbreviation,

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and configured to convert the abbreviation of the destination into an unabbreviated destination (column 3, lines 55-60, column 4, lines 5-15).

As per claim 30, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 26.

- A relevant transfer destination record unit configured to store therein information regarding positions of transfer destinations and availability of data transfer (column 7, lines 28-31, column 8, lines 4-15);
- An optimum route selection unit which refers to said relevant transfer destination record unit to select an optimum route, and changes a description of a transfer destination in the processing instruction text according to the selected optimum route (column 8, lines 40-65).

As per claim 35, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the accumulation unit is further configured to identify a source of the email (column 2, lines 58-67, column 3, lines 33-41).

As per claim 36, Chapman discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communication unit is connected to the internet and is configured to receive the email from the internet (column 3, lines 45-55).

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3. Claims 12-14, 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman et al. (hereinafter "Chapman", US 6,522,421 B2) in view of Shen (US Patent Publication 2003/0187951 A1) in further view of Weiser (US Patent 5,920,404).

As per claim 12, Chapman, in view of Shen, discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1.

Chapman, in view of Shen, does not explicitly disclose wherein the data stored in the accumulation unit is deleted when a first predetermined time period passes after the storing of the data in the accumulation unit.

However, in an analogous art, Weiser discloses administration allowing entry, deletion, and modification of the various attributes associated with a user of the messaging environment (column 10, lines 64-67, column 11, lines 7-9, column 14, lines 61-64).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate Weiser's deleting of data in Chapman's apparatus in order to clean up available memory.

As per claim 13, Chapman, in view of Shen, does not explicitly disclose wherein the data stored in the accumulation unit is deleted when a second predetermined time period passes after the data is read from the accumulation unit.

However, in an analogous art, Weiser discloses administration allowing entry, deletion, and modification of the various attributes associated with a user of the messaging environment (column 10, lines 64-67, column 11, lines 7-9, column 14, lines 61-64).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate Weiser's deleting of data in Chapman's apparatus in order to clean up available memory.

As per claim 14, Chapman, in view of Shen, does not explicitly disclose wherein the first predetermined time period and the second predetermined time period are set flexibly in response to an available memory space of said accumulation unit.

However, in an analogous art, Weiser discloses administration allowing entry, deletion, and modification of the various attributes associated with a user of the messaging environment (column 10, lines 64-67, column 11, lines 7-9, column 14, lines 61-64).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate Weiser's deleting of data in Chapman's apparatus in order to clean up available memory.

As per claim 18, Chapman, in view of Shen, discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1.

Chapman, in view of Shen, does not explicitly disclose:

- A random number generation unit;
- A number record unit configured to store therein a random number generated by said random number generation unit as a password;
- A password record unit being a nonvolatile memory as part of said accumulation unit, and configured to store therein the password; and

- A permission unit configured to allow access to the data of said accumulation unit if the password stored in said number record unit matches the password stored in said password record unit at a time of power on.

However, Weiser discloses to determine if the entered user identifier is valid and to obtain information which may be specific to that particular user, document routing module can access a system database of users, such as directory services. Directory services maintain a record, or object, for each user of messaging environment. Each record contains various attributes, or information, for each user, such as a messaging environment user identifier which is used by document routing module instead of the user identifier obtained from the communications data field (column 8, lines 25-55).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate or implement Weiser's random number generator, number record unit, password record unit, and permission unit in order to determine whether a user entered a valid user identifier.

As per claim 19, Chapman discloses further comprising an encryption unit configured to encrypt the password (column 3, lines 34-36, 40-42).

As per claim 20, Chapman, in view of Shen, does not explicitly wherein said random number generation unit is configured to generate a new random number each time power is turned on, and the new random number is stored in said password record unit as a password.

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However, Weiser discloses to determine if the entered user identifier is valid and to obtain information which may be specific to that particular user, document routing module can access a system database of users, such as directory services. Directory services maintain a record, or object, for each user of messaging environment. Each record contains various attributes, or information, for each user, such as a messaging environment user identifier which is used by document routing module instead of the user identifier obtained from the communications data field (column 8, lines 25-55).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate or implement Weiser's random number generator, number record unit, password record unit, and permission unit in order to determine whether a user entered a valid user identifier.

As per claim 21, Chapman, in view of Shen, does not disclose wherein the password is updated upon passage of a predetermined time period after the password is recorded in the password record unit.

However, Weiser discloses to determine if the entered user identifier is valid and to obtain information which may be specific to that particular user, document routing module can access a system database of users, such as directory services. Directory services maintain a record, or object, for each user of messaging environment. Each record contains various attributes, or information, for each user, such as a messaging environment user identifier which is used by document routing module instead of the user identifier obtained from the communications data field (column 8, lines 25-55).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate or implement Weiser's random number generator, number record unit, password record unit, and permission unit in order to determine whether a user entered a valid user identifier.

Response to Arguments

The Office notes the following arguments:

(a) Chapman fails to teach or suggest a communication unit configured to ***receive an email*** through a communication line from a remote site, the email having been sent by a user.

(b) In Chapman, the data with the email information is sent through a normal printer network, and not ***via email***.

4. Applicant's arguments filed have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to:

(a)-(b) Chapman discloses sending a file with embedded email information, including user ID and domain name with together comprise an email address, from a computer over the network to the appropriate printer (column 3, lines 14-32).

Applicant seems to have difficulty in acknowledging the file sent in Chapman being an ***email***.

According to Webopedia.com (a computer dictionary site), **e-mail** is defined as "the transmission of messages over communications networks. The messages can be notes entered from the keyboard or electronic files stored on disk."

Therefore, Chapman, undoubtedly, discloses a communication unit configured to receive an email through a communication line.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N. Burgess whose telephone number is (571) 272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Barbara N Burgess
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

May 20, 2006


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